

Appln No. 10/728,782
Amtdt. Dated 23 August, 2004
Response to Office action of 25 June, 2004

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Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at Page 5, lines 12-33, through to Page 6, lines 1-13 to be amended as follows:

As can be seen, the strip 17 can be applied adjacent to the leading edge 27 of page 11. The application of strip 17 adjacent to the leading edge ~~28-27~~ is suitable for those situations where the adhesive applicator does not contact the page, or contacts the page at a velocity accurately matching that of the page 11 as it passes the adhesive application station A. Alternatively, the strip 17 could be applied adjacent to the trailing edge 28 of page 11 and this position might be more suited to adhesive applicators that make some form of physical contact with the page 11 as it passes adhesive application station A.

A margin 29 of about 1 to 2.5mm is desirable between the strip 17 and edge 27 or 28 of page 11.

Various methods of applying adhesive to the page 11 are envisaged, some of which are schematically depicted in Fig. 3.

Method 1 in Fig. 3 is a non-contact method of applying adhesive to the moving page 11. In this method, a stationary adhesive applicator 16 sprays adhesive on one side of page 11 as it passes the applicator. The adhesive applicator might be formed integrally with the print head 13 or might be located upstream or after the print head.

Method 2 also applies adhesive to one side of the moving page 11, although this time using a contact method. An adhesive applicator 16 is pivotally mounted about a fixed pivot point and is caused to move at a speed matching that at which the page 11 passes through the adhesive application station. A reaction roller 30 comes into contact with the underside of page 11 as the adhesive applicator 16 applies adhesive to the page.

Method 3 applies adhesive to both sides of a page 11 as it passes through the adhesive application station. A pair of pivotally mounted adhesive applicators 16 move pivotally at a speed corresponding with that at which the page 11 passes through the adhesive application station. They both come into contact with the page 11 and mutually counteract each other's force component normal to the page 11.

Method 4 employs a pair of adhesive applicator rollers 16 spaced from either side of the page 11 until activated to apply adhesive whereupon they move toward and touch the page 11, leaving a strip of adhesive 17 at either side of the page. The rollers would mutually counteract each other's force component normal to page 11.

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Method 5 employs a pair of adhesive spray applicators ~~16~~, one at either side of page 11. The applicators do not contact page 11. Each applicator would apply one part of a two-part adhesive to a respective side of page 11 so as to apply strips 17a and 17b. Like Method 1, Method 5 could employ an adhesive applicator formed integrally with the print head. That is, a channel for the flow of one part of a two-part adhesive might be provided in each print head.

The paragraph beginning at Page 8, lines 6-11 to be amended as follows:

In Fig. 8 a first page 11 is shown in its trajectory toward tray 18. Page 11 has a strip of adhesive 17 on its upper surface adjacent the leading edge. The page 11 might tend to catch a pocket of air beneath it as it floats into position and the leading edge 28 might strike the vertical wall 31 as shown in Fig. 9. The vibrations of the tray 18 as a result of the vibrator 19 will cause the page 11 to come to rest with edge 27 alongside the lower edge of wall ~~23-31~~ and with a right angled edge of the page touching the front wall 32 of tray 18.

The paragraph beginning at Page 8, lines 29-33, through to Page 9, lines 1-5 to be amended as follows:

The binding press 20 is shown schematically in the Figures and could be pneumatically or hydraulically driven, or could be driven by other mechanical means such as rack and pinion, electrical solenoid or otherwise. An alternative embodiment as depicted in Figs. 20, 21 and 22 incorporates a plurality of semicircular disks 20_i each spaced apart, but fixedly mounted to a common rotatably driven shaft extending along an axis of rotation 26. Each disk 20 could pass through a respective vertical slot 33 formed in the end wall 31 of tray 18. That is, there would be as many vertical slots in wall 31 as there are disks 20. The disks could commence in the orientation depicted in Fig. 21 and upon rotation of the shaft pivot to the orientation depicted in Figs. 20 and 22 so as to press down upon the pages.

The paragraph beginning at Page 9, lines 15-17 to be amended as follows:

Where the pages have applied thereto adhesive strips alongside the trailing edge 28, the press would be provided to the left as shown in Fig. 23. In this embodiment, a pressing bar ~~20~~ is provided. Any pressing arrangement could however be provided.